

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2038

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC
SUBJECT: JOINT PANEL ON UAE INTERNAL PROBLEMS SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: ABU DHABI 1917

1. PLANNING MINISTER SAID GHUBBASH TOLD ME EVENING JULY 23 THAT JOINT PANEL COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF CABINET AND FEDERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD CONCLUDED ITS WORK AND SUBMITTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DAY TO SEVEN-RULER FEDERAL SUPREME COUNCIL. GHUBBASH, WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PANEL, SAID THAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO NOT REFLECT ANY RULER'S SPECIAL POSITION BUT THE PANEL'S OWN VIEWS. PANEL'S INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGEMENT WAS IN LARGE PART DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN CREATED NOT AT BEHEST OF ANY ONE RULER BUT AT BEHEST OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. GHUBBASH WAS UNWILLING TO GO INTO MANY DETAILS UNTIL REPORT HAD BEEN SEEN AND DISCUSSED BY SEVEN RULERS. HE
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DID SAY THAT RECOMMENDATIONS DEALT WITH ALL OF THE ISSUES BETWEEN THE RULERS AND HOW THESE COULD BE RESOLVED AND WHAT POLICIES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE REPORT IN VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS CALLS FOR ALL EMIRATES TO CONTRIBUTE TO FEDERAL BUDGET, THAT THERE BE PRIOR COORDINATION WITH PLANNING MINISTRY BEFORE ANY EMIRATE EMBARKS ON MAJOR NEW PROJECT, THAT ARMED FORCES BE FULLY INTEGRATED, AND

THAT CROWN PRINCES OF DIFFERENT EMIRATES TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLES IN AFFAIRS OF STATE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEIR FATHERS ARE ABSENT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. GHUBBASH SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE CONSIDERED WAS THAT OF DISPUTE OVER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF UAE ARMED FORCES AND TO RESOLVE THIS SEVERAL PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE.

3. GHUBBASH CONFIRMED THAT IN THE JOINT PANEL'S SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH EACH OF THE SEVEN RULERS, MEMBERS HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM EACH RULER THAT HE SUPPORTED THE UAE FEDERATION AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACCEDE TO THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS. HOWEVER, GHUBBASH WAS EVEN MORE ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF PANEL HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY UAE CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND FROM ALL EMIRATES TO ASK HOW THE WORK WAS GOING AND TO WISH THEM WELL. HE FELT THIS REFLECTED A SUBSTANTIAL POPULAR FEELING THAT UAE PEOPLE WANT THE FEDERATION TO WORK. THIS IN TURN HAD EMBOLDENED PANEL IN MAKING ITS REPORT. GHUBBASH DID NOT KNOW HOW THE SEVEN RULERS WOULD REACT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS EXCEPT THAT HE FELT PANEL'S REPORT WOULD FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS AGAIN BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT RULERS, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID AND SHAIKH RASHID OF DUBAI.

4. JULY 24 UAE PAPERS REPORT THAT JOINT PANEL HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT AND SUBMITTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. PRESS GIVES CONFIDENTIAL

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NO FURTHER DETAILS EXCEPT TO SAY THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF JOINT PANEL COMPOSED OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH HAMDAN BIN MUHAMMAD, ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TARIYAM UMRAN TARIYAM, AND MINISTER OF TRADE AND ECONOMY SULTAN BIN AHMAD AL MUALLA HAS BEEN FORMED TO FOLLOW UP THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT WORK OF JOINT PANEL, WHICH WAS DONE WITH RELATIVE SPEED (HAVING BEEN FORMED ON JULY 4), HAS FOR THE MOMENT DEFUSED UAE POLITICAL SITUATION. WE NOTE ALSO THAT ON JULY 22, SHAIKH RASHID OF DUBAI LEFT FOR PAKISTAN TO TAKE SOME LEAVE -- AN EVENT WE INTERPRET AS INDICATING HIS BELIEF NO CRUCIAL NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL LIKELY OCCUR IN HIS ABSENCE.
DICKMAN

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